

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 22 March 2001 (22.03.01)	
International application No. PCT/SE00/01206	Applicant's or agent's file reference 56307-60473
International filing date (day/month/year) 09 June 2000 (09.06.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 11 June 1999 (11.06.99)
Applicant PERSSON, Charlotte	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

10 January 2001 (10.01.01)☐

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was☐

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Claudio Borton Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING
OF A CHANGE(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

LINDE J.
Albihns Stockholm AB
P.O. Box 5581
S-114 85 Stockholm
SUÈDE

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 22 March 2001 (22.03.01)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference 56307-60473	
International application No. PCT/SE00/01206	International filing date (day/month/year) 09 June 2000 (09.06.00)

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning:

☐ the applicant ☐ the inventor ☒ the agent ☐ the common representative

Name and Address

BERG, S., A.
Albihns Patentbyrå Stockholm AB
P.O. Box 5581
S-114 85 Stockholm
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State of Nationality

State of Residence

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Teleprinter No.

11942 ALBIHNS S

2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:

☐ the person ☒ the name ☐ the address ☐ the nationality ☐ the residence

Name and Address

LINDE J.
Albihns Stockholm AB
P.O. Box 5581
S-114 85 Stockholm
Sweden

State of Nationality

State of Residence

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3. Further observations, if necessary:

The indication of a new company's name of the agent on the Demand (Form PCT/IPEA/401) has been considered a request for recording a change under Rule 92bis. In case of disagreement, the International Bureau should be notified immediately.

4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the receiving Office	<input type="checkbox"/> the designated Offices concerned
<input type="checkbox"/> the International Searching Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the elected Offices concerned
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the International Preliminary Examining Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

Claudio Borton

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 56307-60473	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/SE 00/01206	International filing date (day/month/year) 9 June 2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 11 June 1999
Applicant SCA Hygiene Products AB et al		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).
2. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).
3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing
 - ☐ filed with the international application.
 - ☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application,
 - ☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ transcribed by this Authority.
4. With regard to the title,
 - ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - ☒ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

Absorbent article that contains an active additive and use of a visual indicator in an absorbent article.
5. With regard to the abstract,
 - ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - ☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:

Figure No. —

 - ☐ as suggested by the applicant.
 - ☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 - ☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☐ None of the figures.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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REC'D 17 SEP 2001

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 56307-60473		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/SE00/01206	International filing date (day/month/year) 09/06/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 11/06/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61L15/42			
Applicant SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB et al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 10/01/2001	Date of completion of this report 10.09.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Domingues, H Telephone No. +49 89 2399 7810 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/SE00/01206

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-7 as published

Claims, No.:

2 as published

1,3-7 as received on 21/06/2001 with letter of 21/06/2001

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/SE00/01206

5. ☒ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

see separate sheet

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1,4,5,6,7
	No:	Claims	2,3
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1,4,5,6,7
	No:	Claims	2,3
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-7
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

1. Concerning section I

The **amended claim 2** does not comply with the requirements of **Art. 19 (2) PCT** because its content extends beyond the application as filed. In fact, no reference could be found in the description to an absorbent article comprising a visual indicator, characterised in that the visual indicator changes colour in response to a change in pH or a change in the moisture content of the part of the absorbent article in proximity of the active additive. Therefore, the IPER has been established as if this claim had not been amended (see **Rule 70.2(c) PCT**).

2. Concerning section VIII

Lack of clarity, Art. 6 PCT

Claim 2 is not properly dependent (**Rule 6.4 PCT**) on claim 1, because the visual indicator mentioned therein is said to change colour in response to a change in pH or a change in the moisture content of the absorbent article. This means that said visual indicator would indicate changes in the pH or moisture content of parts of the absorbent article other than the active additive. This is in agreement with the statements on pg. 5, line 6-8 - "*the visual indicator shows a colour change when the absorbent article has taken up moisture....*". On the other hand, the indicator of claim 1 refers to the activity status of the active additive substance.

Considering claim 2 as an independent claim, no novelty (Art. 33(2) PCT) or inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT) can be acknowledged due to the disclosures in the prior art (see section V, below).

3. Concerning section V

Novelty, Art. 33(2) PCT

Claim 2 is considered an independent claim directed to an absorbent article comprising a visual indicator, characterised in that the visual indicator changes colour in response to a change in pH or a change in the moisture content of the absorbent article, and therefore it lacks novelty in light of the prior art discussed below.

D2 describes an absorbent article (a diaper) comprising wetness or pH indicating adhesive compositions that change colour in response to a change in wetness or in pH, respectively. Acid-base indicators, which change colour in response to pH changes, such as Ethyl Red and

Bromophenol Blue, are said to be preferred (see pg. 6, line 6-12 and 15-18). Disposable diapers with a wetness indicator are also disclosed in **D3** (abstract, pg. 1, pg. 3, line 33-35, pg. 4, line 15-17, line 22-25; see also claims). Said indicator comprises a pH indicator that can be bromophenol blue (see claim 1 and 2). According to claim 3, this system can change colour in response to changes in atmospheric moisture. **D4** also discloses absorbent articles (disposable paper products, such as napkins) having an indicator that provides visually recognisable signs when the paper becomes wet (abstract and column 2). In view of the cited disclosures, it is clear that absorbent articles containing a visual indicator that changes colour in response to changes in the pH or moisture content of the absorbent article are state of the art, and therefore **claim 2 and dependent claim 3** cannot be considered novel (Art. 33(2) PCT).

4. An absorbent article that includes at least one active additive substance according to the invention, characterised in that the absorbent article comprises a visual indicator that indicates *the activity status of the active additive* has not been disclosed in the prior art. Therefore, **claim 1 and its dependent claims 4-7** appear to be novel and inventive.

Claims:

1. An absorbent article, such as a diaper, a panty liner, an incontinence protector, a napkin, or a tampon that includes at least one active additive substance, **characterised**
5 in that the absorbent article comprises a visual indicator that indicates the activity status of the active additive.
2. An absorbent article according to Claim 1, **characterised in that the visual**
indicator changes colour in response to a change in pH or a change in the moisture
10 content of the part of the absorbent article in proximity of the active additive.
3. An absorbent article according to any one of Claims 1 or 2, **characterised in that**
the visual indicator is comprised of methyl red, methyl violet, methyl orange,
bromocresol lilac, Acid Blue 80, blue dye Calcocid Blue 2G, ethyl red, bromophenol
15 blue, bromocresol green, preferably methyl orange, methyl red or methyl violet.
4. An absorbent article according to any one of Claims 1-3, **characterised in that the**
active additive is a micro-organism, preferably an acid producing micro-organism,
more preferably a lactobacillus, and still more preferably a lactobacillus of the strain
20 Lactobacillus plantarum LB931 (DSM No. 41918).
5. An absorbent article according to any one of Claims 1-3, **characterised in that the**
active substance is an acid, preferably citric acid, lactic acid or acid SAP.
- 25 6. An absorbent article according to any one of Claims 1-5, **characterised in that the**
visual indicator is placed on one of the uppermost layers of the absorbent product; and
in that the visual indicator can be detected on the surface of the product.
7. The use of a visual indicator in an absorbent article, such as a diaper, a panty liner,
30 an incontinence protector, a napkin or a tampon, that includes at least one active

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additive substance, which indicator provides an indication of the activity status of said
active additive substance.